

Mr. Chairman, Dr. Collins, I see the NIH as a public good. Like highways and clean water, the NIH is a benefit to our entire society. But those benefits widespread, long-lasting, and not always immediately profitable. That is why private business does not - and often cannot - make these investments.

Funding for public goods is one of the most important functions of the federal government. The investments this Committee makes in the NIH are critical not only to the health of our citizens but also to the growth of our economy. You made some excellent examples of that earlier.

Dr. Collins, in your testimony you state that every \$1 of NIH funding directly results in more than \$2 in economic output. The indirect - and longer term - benefits from NIH investments are much greater still.

That is what I would like you to explain for us this morning.

- Talk to us about how investments in the NIH lead to private sector innovation, both directly and indirectly.
- Where would the drug industry, medical device sector, or any of the other major aspects of the U.S. health care sector be without the basic research supported by NIH?